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WINE IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

The policy of the President and his household as to the offering of wine at official dinners has been defined. On a recent occasion four or five wine glasses were at every plate. This is the more to be regretted because some eminent Senators and their wives have felt free to dispense with liquors at their entertainments altogether. One of these ladies said: "I should consider it a personal insult if any one would offer liquors to my son, and I will not offer to other mothers' sons what I am not willing should be offered to mine."—*Statesman*.

[Hon. John Wanamaker, Postmaster General, has given a public dinner without offering his guests intoxicating drinks.—Ed.]

LOTTERY GAMBLING.

Sixty years ago the lottery system seemed so firmly established in this country, and so widely prevalent, that it required much moral courage on the part of the statesmen and philanthropists of that day to attack so gigantic an evil.

The report of a committee appointed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania to investigate the subject, in 1831, states that there were 177 offices for the sale of lottery tickets in the City of Philadelphia alone: that the tickets were drawn on an average more than once a day: and that the system presented "an appalling picture of vice, crime and misery in every varied form."

The publicity given to the evils of lotteries about that time, led to their abolition in Pennsylvania and other States; so that, latterly we believe, Louisiana has the bad pre-eminence of being the only State in the Union which still tolerates the system.

THE WORLD'S FAIR OF 1892.

Hon. E. A. Morse, M. C. of Massachusetts, opposing a World's Fair remarked in Congress as follows:

"Before spending the amount eventually involved in any of the measures, would it not be well to have a navy and coast defences to comport with the dignity of a nation of sixty millions of people? We read of an ancient king who invited his enemies to visit his capital and showed them his treasures and its defences, and later they came with arms and took them away and despoiled his city. Would it not be a humiliating spectacle to exhibit to these foreign visitors that with our present navy and coast defences a third-class European man-of-war could enter any of our harbors on the Atlantic or Pacific and demand and collect any ransom they chose?" He believed one of the first duties of the Fifty-first Congress was to wipe out this standing disgrace and humiliation to this great and powerful nation.

We confess to a degree of surprise at the attitude of this respected gentleman whose business abilities are conspicuous, whose "industry" is peculiarly adapted to world-wide exhibition, whose prosperity turns on the preservation of peace and whose economical and Christian principles incline him "to substitute Arbitration for war every time." A World's Fair seems to us calculated to harmonize and unify America and to draw all the world towards us and towards common interests and peaceful commerce.

TYRANNY IN GERMANY.

In Germany, no public meeting, on any question whatever, may be held without the attendance and permission of the police; and the latter may at any moment break up such a meeting in the most arbitrary and despotic manner and merely from their objection to any sentiment uttered which may happen to differ from their opinions. It is almost incredible to Englishmen and Americans, when they learn the extent to which such an intelligent and highly educated nation as the Germans are treated by their Government and its police myrmidons, as if they were so many dogs to be kicked and driven at will.

At Berlin, the military bureau is so vigorously repressive of individual freedom, that even most of the University Professors and Members of the Legislature have become as timorous as children in regard to any action, or utterances, which might be deemed unacceptable to the Government. The least intelligent and most subordinate of police officials have power to promptly repress the utterances, or meetings, of the foremost men in Germany, whenever, in their own view, the sentiments advocated are not in unison with the absolutism and militarism of Bismarck and the Emperor.

But besides this direct suppression, there are various indirect ways of imposing silence, or discouraging free speech. For in Germany, the Government is an immense employer of labor. It owns the railways, and is also largely concerned in manufactures. Hence multitudes of people are dependent upon it for their daily occupation and support. The vast barracks scattered over the Empire, afford the army-authorities innumerable opportunities of extending patronage and profitable advantages to subservient local friends, and of withholding these privileges from any persons, whether rich or poor, whose independent opinions may render them in the slightest degree obnoxious to the powers that be.—*Herald of Peace*.

THE BRAZILIAN CALENDAR.

Advices from Brazil say that the Provisional Government has ordered that the use of the calendar with saints' names for each day be discontinued, and that Comte's Positivist calendar be substituted therefor.

This calendar substitutes the name of some eminent man for a saint's name for each day, divides the year into thirteen months, and dedicates the months to Moses, Homer, Shakespeare, Dante, etc., substituting these for the names now in use.

How much more simple and satisfactory it would be for Brazil and all other countries to adopt the Scriptural method of using the numerals to designate the days of the week and month as the Society of Friends has always done.—*The Friend*.

Nothing shows the true lady more than her letters. As regards the writing itself, it should be as good as possible. To write badly is discourteous, because it looks as if you thought any scrawl were good enough for your friend, no matter what trouble may be required to read it. Never write "Excuse haste and a bad pen." No one should write to a friend in indecent haste, and pens are cheap to buy. Use strong grammatical English, few abbreviations, and make your meaning as clear as daylight.—*Five Talents of Woman*.